

History of the Development of Community Psychology

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ABSTRACT This paper addresses the social forces and factors that encouraged the development of a new discipline, community psychology. Psychologists typically treat aberrant individuals, and in a society where the social system operates well for the majority, psychology plays an important role. When a society itself encounters problems, whether internally or externally induced, psychologist must turn their attention to larger social and contextual issues. Some prescient psychologists did exactly that, with a meeting held at Swampscott, Massachusetts in 1965 to initiate the discipline of community and practical ways of dealing with severe social problems, including those likely to emerge in the near future.